Newport Philatelic Society

Newsletter Eighteenth Release: Number 78 September 2020

Introduction:

Dear members, issue eighteen has arrived. This issue has contributions from Martyn and Lynne. Martyn has shared some of his Fiji airmail covers, I have separated this display into two halves to reduce the file size so there will be second half with a further 8 pages in the next issue to enjoy, and Lynne shows us some of his recent cover purchases relating to the QE2 cruise liner including a launch cover before Queen Elizabeth II "christened and named" the ship and it was then known by its Cunard name of "Q4"!

I know you are all keen to hear news of when the meetings can start again, however, the civic centre is still a long way off from being able to safely let us in. Many council employees are still on furlough themselves and realistically I do not think we will be able to hold meetings this year and probably not until the Spring next year in 2021. We can hope for an earlier resumption but I think we should prepare for a longer wait. The committee, however, has suggested we organise an afternoon tea for all members, paid for by the club, to enable us to get together, socially distanced of course. This event would be chance for all members to catch up and share our lockdown stories and to tell everyone what new philatelic treasures we have found! More details will follow once members respond positively with their interest. Any other suggestions to enable us to interact further please let me know.

Do not forget if you have any stamp related news or interests to share please pass it on so that I can share it with the wider membership. We can also use our website for useful links and articles.

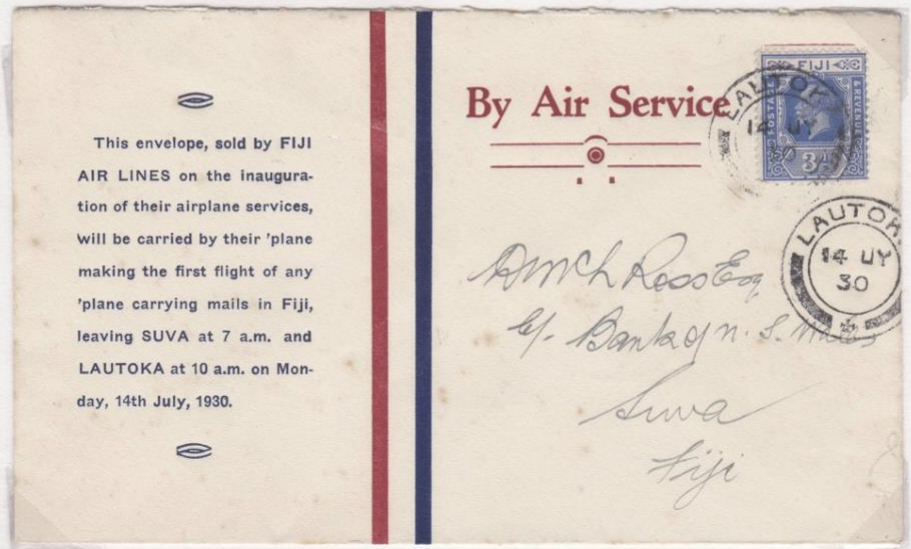
https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/

It would be amazing if we could get to 20+ newsletters before the new society season starts but this will all depend on you. Please send in any contributions you can to make this milestone happen.

A display of Fiji Airmail Covers by Martyn:

Cover carried on the first LAUTOKA SUVA Flight by FIJI AIR LINES

On 14th July 1930 backstamped SUVA 14th July 1930



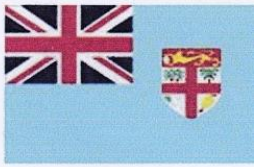
Captain Fenton, s Simmonds Spartan biplane shortly after landing at LEVUKA

On its first flight from SUVA in July 1930

Air Mail Cover of Fiji.

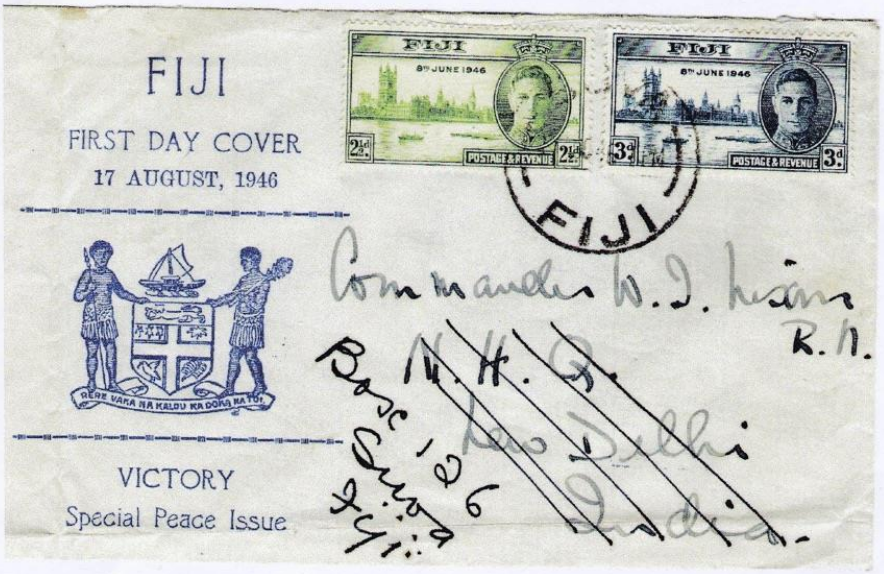
San Francisco to Suva First Flight cover 5 November 1941

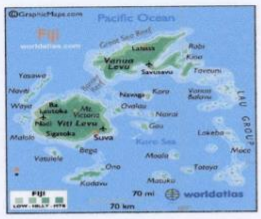
New Zealand to Fiji Inaugural Flight.11 November 1941.



FIJI.

FIJI Gifts label to Britain. On back of cover. To India
Victory cover





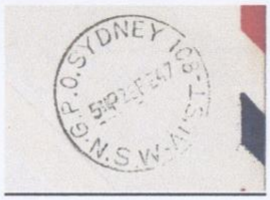
FIJI

.Air Mail Cover of FIJI

17 March RNZAF pShort Sunderland quasi -civil Auckland-Suva was Extended to Labasa. This extension was carried out under charter to the Fiji Government on a fortnight basis. First flight cover Suva (15march1947) -Labasa (16March1947) produced by local dealer in small quantities.

Air Mail Cover of Fiji.

Pan Am inaugural Douglas DC4 flight of FAM 19, San Francisco to Sydney via Honolulu. Canton Island Nadi (25February) and Noumea. Backstamped Sydney 26 February. First flight covers from Fiji postmarked Lautoka 25 February 1947, pictorial cachet in black applied Return flight Delayed to 7November 1947 due to conflict with Australian Government over Reciprocal flying rights across the Pacific into U.S.A.



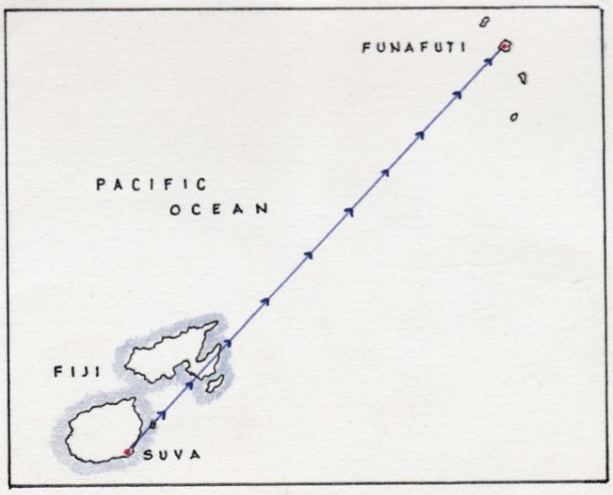
Air Mail Cover of Fiji.

Nadi Airport to Papeete.Tahiti 23 November 1963
Arrival Papeete 22November 1963

The return first flight did not at Fiji

Suva - Funafuti

The first regular airmail service between Suva, Fiji and Funafuti in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands commenced on July 5th, 1964. It was operated by Fiji Airways Limited using a Heron aircraft. For a passenger the cost of the flight was $4-00.



BACKSTAMP

Air Mail Cover of Fiji.

Inaugural Service Sydney London via Mexico.
Nadi Airport to London 27 November 1964.
London arrival 28 November

London to Nadi Airport 28 November 1964.

Last Item Bought: (Lynne)

Some new QE2 covers bought by Lynne with an interesting launch cover for Q4, Cunard pre-christening name before Queen Elizabeth christened her!

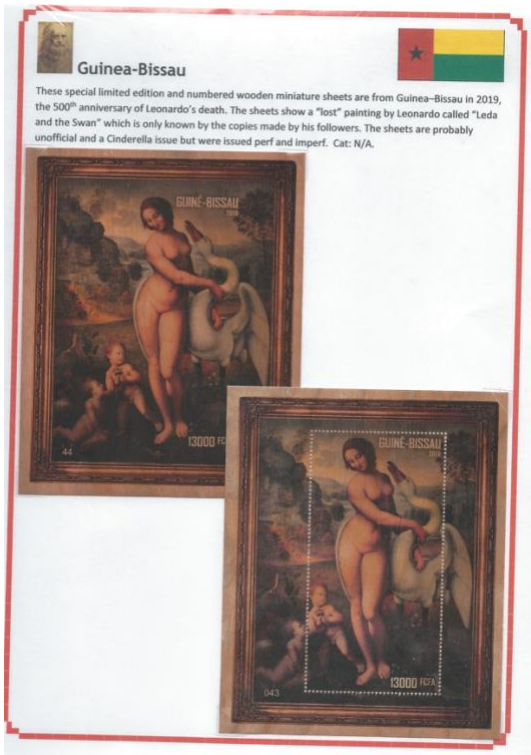
Final Notes:

Dear members, please take care and keep safe and well. A big thank you to Martyn and Lynne for contributing to this issue.

Please remember to send in a picture of your “last item bought” as many members comment how this is a simple but interesting topic and it is an easy way to share and make a contribution to a newsletter. If you have bought two or more items and cannot decide which to send, send in pictures of them all!

Any mistakes and errors are all down to me, so as before, my genuine apologies for every one of them! If anyone is receiving the newsletter in error or no longer wishes to receive it please let me know and I will remove you from the circulation list.

Until next time.
Les Ashton-Smith

P.S.

I purchased an interesting item recently to add to my Leonardo collection, a likely Cinderella issue, but a stamp made from wood of a Lost Leonardo painting which was “issued” by Guinea-Bissau last year.